

Disregard for democratic tradition must be opposed

The following statement is being circulated among the faculties and departments at the U of A for the purpose of stimulating discussion about the implementation of the War Measures Act, the actions of the FLQ and the effects this has upon Canadians. It was written by T. C. Pocklington, associate professor and D. J. Carmichael, visiting assistant professor, both of the political science department.

Today we stand together in shock and sorrow over the sordid and stupid murder of M. LaPorte. This terror must end. Terrorism — for any end, or by any person — cannot be tolerated by citizens who cherish their democratic traditions and their respect for the life and dignity of every individual.

Today we must stand together. But where?

What are we to do?

We believe that this disregard for individual dignity and democratic tradition must be opposed wherever it occurs—not only in the insane arrogance of the FLQ, but also in the callousness displayed by the federal and provincial governments who are handling this crisis.

These governments have displayed an ominous insensitivity not only to the lives of Messrs. Cross and LaPorte, but also to our democratic traditions of due process and parliamentary representation.

These actions — of the FLQ terrorism and of governmental arrogance — raise profound moral questions about the meaning of our way of life. We call upon our fellow Canadians to examine these questions, before it is too late. We must stand together as Canadians: but upon the value of our heritage, and not behind any governments which trample upon that tradition.

Consider. These governments could have negotiated for the safe return of Cross and LaPorte, and then brought legislation before Parliament to root terrorism out of Quebec. *Two lives.* What are two lives worth, anyway? What *should* they be worth, to any government charged with the democratic responsibility for protecting life. Instead, the government embarked upon a massive manhunt, in clear defiance of the demands of the FLQ and suspended the protections of our Bill of Rights into the 'bargain'. They did so in the face of the high probability that this would lead to the deaths of the hostages. The govern-

ment used their "war powers" also to jail the FLQ's negotiator. Did the government truly expect the madmen of the FLQ to answer by unconditionally releasing Cross and LaPorte?

M. LaPorte could have been saved and the FLQ routed, without cost to the principles we cherish. But evidently the government utterly failed to reflect upon these alternatives, or upon the value of our way of life. By its callous action the government has implicated itself in the inhumanity of the FLQ. It must share the moral responsibility for the murder of M. LaPorte.

This madness must stop!

It is not yet too late. One life yet hangs in the balance. Is Mr. Cross also to be murdered through indifference?

This indifference to life is accompanied by a deep disregard for democratic tradition. Proclamation of the War Measures Act — which occasioned the death of M. LaPorte — was unnecessary. Severe and stringent powers accrue to the Government in the form of alternative legislation. The legislation does not suspend the Bill of Rights nor due process. Were its power insufficient the Government could —

and should — have asked our representatives for further authority instead of unilaterally invoking the most sweeping powers at its disposal. War-time measures. What do due process and parliamentary authority mean? They are the fragile cornerstones of our political community. Are they to be suspended so summarily?

To the Government, we say this. Prosecute those who would destroy our democracy; but do it democratically! Prosecute those who disregard human life; but do not sacrifice innocent lives needlessly into the bargain.

Extraordinary vigor and resolution are indeed necessary to guarantee the rights of citizens against fanatical political terrorists. But remember that such fanaticism is bred in social injustice. We ask the Government to attack the disease itself and not merely its current symptoms . . . above all to apply its powers now to end unemployment and to repatriate our economy.

Act with vigor and resolution now to save Mr. Cross, and to guarantee our rights of citizenship.

Do not let M. LaPorte die in vain.

two, four,
six, eight

The Gateway

Canada is a
police state

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... it can happen here

Political repression rampant

MONTREAL (CUP)—The police forces began Wednesday the largest operation of political repression ever seen in the history of Quebec. Arrests and searches have multiplied in all regions.

According to the official numbers given out in the general area of the QPP in Montreal (the centre of the operations) Saturday night the number of arrests had gone over 255. But a very incomplete

compilation taken by the Quebec Presse shows grave doubts about the authenticity of these figures . . . which could very well be actually double that.

Using the powers given them through the War Measures Act, the Montreal Police, the QPP, and the army have carried out arrests and searches without search warrants. No information has been given regarding the identity

of those being held. The officials ignore the question of when they will be released.

According to an authorized spokesman of the FLQ, in the raids up to now, police have been unable to find the dynamite or explosives, much less the two cells of the FLQ. Only a few guns, hunting rifles have been seized.

The facts reveal quite clearly the political character of the raids of the

past hours, raids that are designed to break up many organizations and to eliminate in many cases opposition movements to the present regime, of whatever nature they may be.

Everyone who had been previously arrested in connection with past actions of the FLQ and who were freed with warnings (or who were freed because charges were dropped against them) have been arrested again.

It goes without saying that Pierre Vallières, and Charles Gagnon, leading spokesmen of the FLQ were also arrested.

Dozens of members of the Parti Quebecois have been arrested and/or searched by the police.

Michel Chartrand, president of the 67,000 members of the Confederation of National Trade Unions in Montreal, and many other union executives as well as militant rank and file people are included.

Lawyers:

Robert Lemieux, defence lawyer for most of the Quebec political prisoners, messenger for the FLQ during the negotiations with the government of Quebec. The police also searched the house and office of his partner Pierre Cloutier, whom the police are actively seeking. The papers of Mr. Cloutier were seized contrary to all the rules of the bar.

Three doctors are

known to have been imprisoned including Dr. Serge Mongeau, Director of Family Planning in Montreal, President of the Movement for the Defence of Quebec Political Prisoners.

Literary figures:

Gaston Miron, a poet, and one of the directors of the Movement for the Defence of Political Prisoners. Also singer Pauline Julein, comedian Jean Desy, poet Michel Garneau.

Journalists:

Gerald Godin, a writer for Quebec Presse, plus many others.

Political groups:

From the Trotskyists police have arrested Arthur Young and Pennie Simpson.

They have also arrested some Internationalists. And from the now defunct Front de Liberation Populaire, police took Stanley and Andrée Feratti.

Most of the names are unknown to English Canadians as is much of the history of the Quebec struggle. People were arrested all over the province from Hull to Gaspé.

The people are being loaded into the jails and kept there. There are many who have been picked up and have been unable to contact family or friends. They have just disappeared.

And the round-up continues.

What the WMA could mean to you

Under the War Measures Act an unlawful association is defined as any "group or association that advocates the use of force or commission of crime as a means of or as an aid in accomplishing governmental changes within Canada." This means not only the FLQ are liable under the act.

It is an indictable offence for any person to be or to profess to be a member of the FLQ (or possible successors); to be an officer of it; to advocate or promote unlawful acts of such an association; to contribute in dues to it; to solicit subscriptions of contributions to it; to advocate, promote or engage in the use of force or criminal acts to accomplish governmental change in Canada.

The regulations also apply to persons who give assistance to anyone who is guilty of an offence under these regulations.

Any person suspect of an offence under these regulations can be held for up to 21 days without being charged. At this time either a charge must be laid or the person released.

If after 90 days no date for a trial has been set, the police can apply to a judge of the superior court to set a date for a trial at his discretion.

This means a person can be held in jail, without bail, for prolonged periods of time without trial.

The order-in-council states that "it continues to be recognized in Canada that men and institutions remain free only when freedom is founded upon respect for moral and spiritual values and the rule of law."

WAR MEASURES ACT

Discussion Meeting
SUB Theatre
Noon Today

The meeting will be open to the general public and is for the purpose of forming, evaluating, and deciding action. Speakers have been invited and will be discussing the situation in Quebec and the actions of the FLQ, as well as explaining the legal implications of the War Measures Act. The rally will be devoted to an exchange of ideas among participants.

This meeting is for everyone, not just the university community. Liberty is everyone's concern.

The Gateway

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STAFF THIS ISSUE—In view of the fact that our publishing this paper could make us all liable for prosecution (persecution?) under the War Measures Act, we feel it is unnecessary to jeopardize members of the staff except for those whose names regularly appear in the masthead. Therefore the only name appearing in this space is mine, Harvey G. (for gee I hope THEY don't get me) Thomgirt. (Actually the G. stands for Gervais, but the ethnic origins of that name have recently caused me considerable paranoia. I changed it to Gerald.)

The views expressed by this paper are those of The Gateway staff and not necessarily those of the students' union or the University. The editor-in-chief is legally responsible for all material published herein.

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You don't have to live in Quebec

There are 21 million political prisoners in Canada. With the implementation of the War Measures Act the traditional rights and freedoms of all Canadians have been suspended.

The War Measures Act was supposedly aimed at the FLQ and its supporters, but they are not the only ones whose actions may be labelled "subversive". Merely the act of writing, or reading this material could put you under suspicion of posing a threat to the "security, defence, peace, order and welfare of Canada".

The implications are extremely broad since the terms of the Act are so imprecise, a fact which has not been overlooked by Vancouver Mayor Tom Campbell: "I would suggest that the draft dodgers had better start dodging. Get out of here, boy, because we're going to pick you up."

The Act takes the form of a Canada-wide mandate to policing agents to detain anyone they suspect of "subversive activities", without actual evidence. There is a maximum period of 21 days without charges being laid, and ninety days before setting a trial date. That they find drugs instead of an anti-government force is not going to make a difference.

The War Measures act was not a necessary step by the government in dealing with the situation in Quebec. The institution of an act used before only in wartime is indicative of a far more encompassing situation than at first seems evident. The kidnappings are not just isolated events in an otherwise calm time. They are part of a continuing restlessness which has steadily been building pressure, and which is probably not yet at its peak.

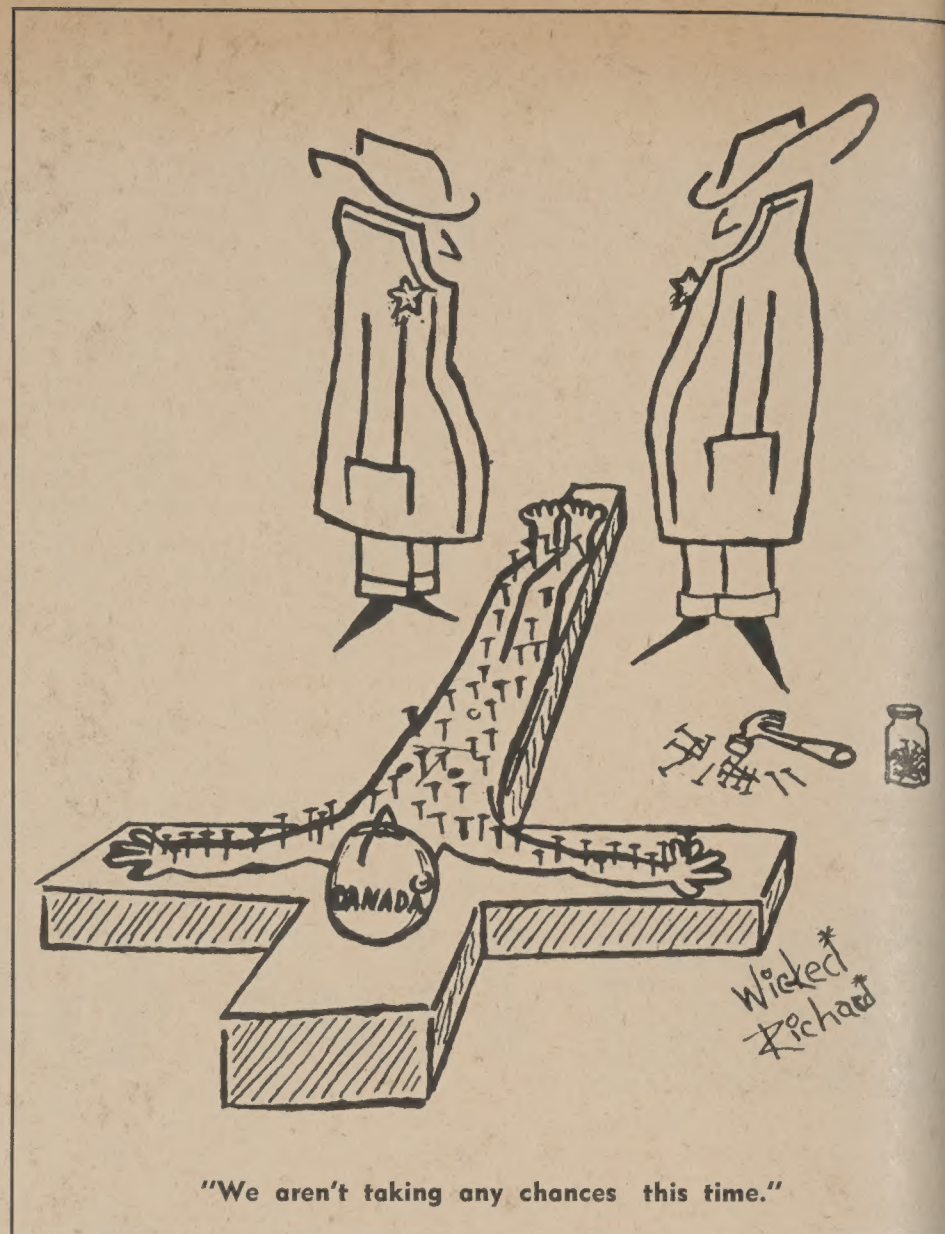
The real problem existing in Quebec today is not with the FLQ and its terrorist activities. It goes much deeper into the spectrum of the French-Canadian society and its attempt to achieve what it feels is equality and release from the repression of the English majority. That too is not the final analysis, since the struggle itself is rooted in economics and inaccessibility.

The FLQ has responded to a frustrating and perhaps seemingly hopeless situation with violence. The government has retaliated with a typical one-upmanship in their attempt to contain a situation which was obviously fast becoming out of their control. The true meaning of the struggle in Quebec has in the meantime been relegated to obscurity.

When you look at the actions of the past week, consider not just the symptomatic events, but look for the basic issues which the present emotionalism and violence are hiding. Why does this situation exist to the degree of seriousness that it has reached? What attempts have there been on either side to compromise? What does this government action purport to solve, and will it? What is the basic issue over which this situation exists?

The rally at noon today is for discussion, but that discussion must extend beyond a simple view of what has happened and a subsequent condemnation of the government. It must be an attempt to reach an understanding of the problems of Quebec and French-Canadians, then to put the actions of both the government and the FLQ into perspective. This will not come out of a one-hour meeting listening to speakers.

It requires active participation by all students and a direct interchange of ideas. Following the rally you should express enough concern to remain to discuss these ideas more fully. The situation in the east has affected the whole of Canadian society because of the broadness of the War Measures Act. That makes it your problem, as well as that of the people of Quebec, and you owe it to yourself to attempt to understand what is happening in your society.



Quebec Presse advocates popular resistance movements

The following is an editorial statement from Quebec Presse, a weekly left-wing newspaper published in Montreal and supported by Quebec trade unions. The editorial appeared in the October 18, 1970 edition.

Repression is going on. Political repression.

The list of citizens put under arrest, of which Gerald Godin, a member of the editorial board of Quebec Presse, is one, says a great deal about the kind of operation underway.

We have no news of the incarcerated citizens. We haven't even got official confirmation of their arrests. The population is completely in the dark. Under these conditions, panic is a result of fear.

Jean Marchand, Federal Minister, has publicly declared that the government has been astonished because the Quebecois 'en masse' have not condemned, with the last of their energies, the action of the FLQ. The attitude of Quebec and of the Quebecois startled the Ottawa government who became frightened.

Thus they found it necessary to work against the evidence agreement given by a part of the population of the FLQ Manifesto. It was necessary to act firmly. Where did the war measures and the entrance of the army come from? Where did the clearly political repression come from?

Second act of the operation: brainwashing.

The operation has been unfurled from Ottawa. It is Pierre Elliot Trudeau who shot first. Friday night he gave the word on radio and television. He had made people afraid and he wanted to make them afraid. In fact, he was terrifying, for more than one good reason. After the violence

of the army and the soldiers, a lie was born.

Very sweetly, as if in confidence, Trudeau told the population that the next victims of the terrorists could be "a director of a Caisse Populaire (credit union), a farmer or a child." and even: "you or me."

(What Trudeau said was a lie.) He cannot ignore it: "You or me" that is from the fuming demagogue. Between "you" and "me" there is the power.

Already, Saturday, in Hull, some sadists wanted to justify, without doubt, the prophecies of Trudeau. A young woman was mutilated by some maniacs. Allegedly in the name of the FLQ.

But it is clear the FLQ does not threaten the population at random. It threatens, as it has said itself, the representatives of the forces who control Quebec. That is very different.

It is sufficient as proof to look where the military has been installed in the areas of Montreal. There are a few in Franco-phone East and there are a great many in Westmount (where most of the rich English live). It is the minority, those who have wealth that they must protect.

The army is not in Quebec to protect the population. It is in Quebec to protect the wealthy. Everybody knows that, especially Trudeau and Bourassa. Consequently it is necessary to resist the repression that hits everywhere in Quebec—and to resist by using all imaginable pacifist means.

This resistance must be a common concerted effort of the popular movements, of the citizen's committees, of all the associations and of all the trade unions.

—The editorial committee of Quebec Presse